

INTELLIGENCE

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CLASSIFICATION SECRET//CONTROL/US OFFICIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from Letzling Heath, Gardelegen and Tangermuende

868

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 26 April 1951

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 4 April 1951, no troops were observed at the camp in the woods south of Hottendorf or in the camp near Boergitz at Letzling Heath (M 53/Y 53). The approach roads to Letzling Heath were blocked. Rifle fire was heard from the direction of the training area. A convoy of 16 trucks, each occupied by 12 to 15 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia, passed through Uchtspringe toward Gardelegen (M 53/Y 44) on 4 April. Trucks [redacted] were identified. (1)

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2. The Remonte Kaserne in Gardelegen was still occupied to capacity by about 300 troops. Eight groups, each of 12 soldiers with crew cut hair, received basic infantry training in the barracks yard. About 40 soldiers practiced at the obstacle course. The quarters at Gardelegen airfield were occupied to capacity by 400 to 500 troops. Most of the soldiers observed wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia and some of them wore crimson epaulets. Three groups, each of about 10 soldiers, practiced with 76.2-mm AT guns, while about 60 EM received basic infantry training. No vehicular traffic was observed. A large radio device with a double field-wire line leading to the Remonte Kasorne was seen on Hill 63, 1 km northeast of Gardelegen. (2)

3. The barracks installation on the northwestern perimeter of Tangermuende (M 53/Y 84) quartered 200 to 250 troops who wore black epaulets. Three platoons of about 30 young soldiers each received basic infantry training in the barracks yard. About 40 pontoons and 30 thick rubber bundles, probably pneumatic rafts, were stored in an open shed. Trucks [redacted] stood in the barracks yard. (3)

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4. No AA gun emplacements were observed at the Elbe River crossing points in the Tangermuende-Hermeten-Schoenhausen area. With the Elbe River meadows still being inundated on 3 April, no troops were observed at the engineer training site on the Elbe River near Polte which is located southwest of Rittkau and 15 km south of Tangermuende.

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DRAFTING MILITARY 5

No Change In Class. Declassified

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By

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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5. The camp in the woods north of Polte, between Kobbelt and Bittkau, was vacant on 3 April. Ten German workers, supervised by several Russians, were setting up a large wooden barracks building. The building material was hauled to the camp on trucks [redacted] escorted by soldiers who wore black-bordered black epaulets. (4)

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6. Gate guards at the southwestern section of the barracks installation northwest of the Tangermuende railroad station wore engineer insignia. About 150 soldiers, who seemed to be all the troops quartered there, worked on 30 to 40 wooden pontoons in the barracks yard on 3 April. Amphibious cars [redacted] left the installation toward Stendal. The northwestern section of the installation was guarded by a sentry who wore artillery insignia. Crews of 10 soldiers practiced with four 37-mm AA guns which were observed there for the first time. No training was noticed in the area along the Elbe River. (3)

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- [redacted] Comments. 25X1
 (1) Hottendorf, Boergitz and Uchtspringe are situated on the Stendal-Gardelegen highway, on the northern perimeter of Letzling Heath. The truck [redacted] indicate that the 136th Pv Tank SP Regt of the Third Shock Army from Burg drove to Letzling Heath for field training. 25X1
 (2) The information indicates no changes [redacted] on Gardelegen 25X1
 (3) The information, [redacted] confirms the unidentified engineer battalion of the 207th Mtz Rifle Div which is believed to be located in the barracks installation on the northwestern perimeter of Tangermuende. 25X1
 (4) Since the trucks observed in the camp in the woods near Polte, 8 km southwest of Tangermuende, belong to the 19th Sds Lecz Div, the camp was possibly earmarked for troops of this division.

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